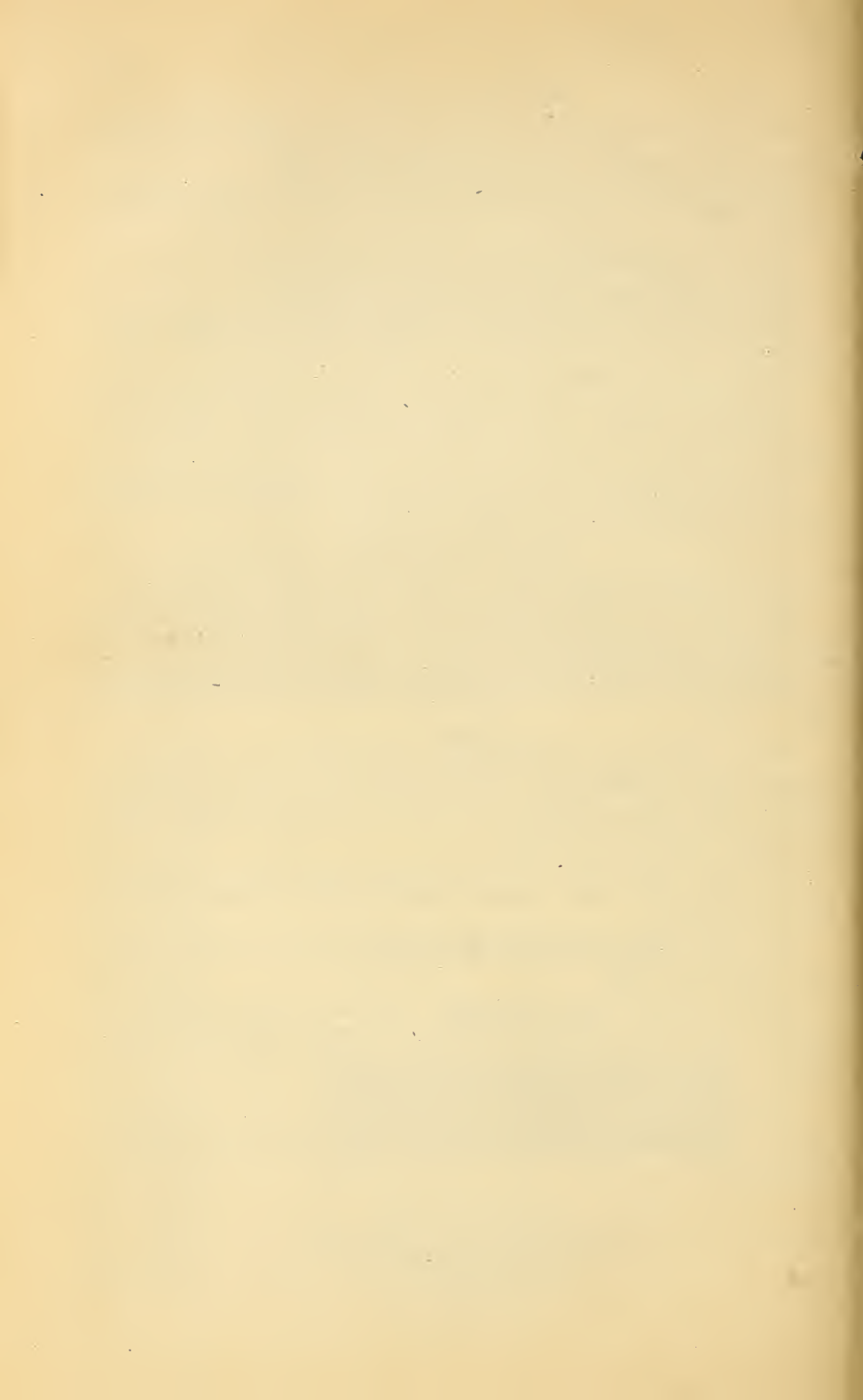


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HOW TEACHERS  
MAY USE FARMERS' BULLETIN 1087

**BEAUTIFYING THE FARMSTEAD**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 155

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**T**HE TEACHING OF AGRICULTURE in any community should have a vital connection with the problems of the farms of that community. Pupils are interested in those things about which they have some knowledge. The type of agriculture practiced in the community can be used to the best advantage in teaching. Therefore the teacher should organize the available subject matter which is of community interest and present it in such a manner that it will touch closely the life and experiences of the pupils. In order to do this the teacher should be familiar with the agricultural interests of the community.

For the purpose of assisting teachers in work of this kind circulars suggesting how teachers may profitably use information contained in certain publications of the United States Department of Agriculture are prepared from time to time. It is hoped that these circulars will serve to improve methods of instruction in agriculture and related subjects in the schools and that a closer relation will be established between the work of the school and the interests of the community.

While these circulars are prepared more especially for teachers in elementary schools, they may serve as a basis for instruction in agriculture in secondary schools in urban as well as in rural schools.

By emphasizing the topics as outlined in this circular it is believed that the teacher will be able to impart to the pupils valuable information regarding some of the essential points in beautifying the farmstead.

## BEAUTIFYING THE FARMSTEAD.

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*Range of use.*—This bulletin is well suited for use in all rural district schools and the elementary schools in rural villages and towns. It is also valuable for use in high-school classes in agriculture.

*Relation to course of study.*—Agricultural teaching can be greatly vitalized by the use of the subject matter presented in this bulletin. While the bulletin is better adapted for use in the upper grades in rural schools, parts of it can be used in the intermediate grades. Making farm homes more attractive and pleasant is so important that it should be stressed in the various phases in teaching all boys and girls in the rural public schools when feasible. This work should be given in seasonal order, as far as possible. Beautifying the farmstead is closely related to the work in home gardening and fruit growing. Correlations should be made in teaching these agricultural subjects.

*Illustrative material.*—Seed and nursery companies' catalogues will be found useful in connection with this work. Frequently they contain plans for home-ground improvement. Good pictures and plans may also be found in country life magazines and farm journals. Home-ground plans that are adaptable to the locality and within the means of the patrons of the school are of most value. Catalogues of cement companies may furnish supplementary suggestions concerning the construction of walks and drives. Some of the agricultural colleges are able to furnish plans for home grounds. Samples of materials for constructing walks make a useful display. A small tree and shrub with roots and tops pruned for planting will serve an excellent purpose. Liberal use should be made of the blackboard in working out farmstead plans.

### *Topics for study.*—

#### I. Need of beautifying the farmstead.

- (1) Effect of the home surroundings on citizenship.
- (2) Essentials of a good home.
- (3) Changes in the style of home buildings.
- (4) Close relation of the farm home and the business of the farm.
- (5) Causes for the neglect to improve the farmstead.

#### II. Making plans for improvement.

- (1) What the farmstead includes.
- (2) Essential steps in making plans for the improvement of an old-established farmstead.
- (3) How to plan a new farmstead.

III. Style of the design.

- (1) Special styles of farm buildings established in local sections.
- (2) Making farm buildings harmonize with the surrounding landscape.
- (3) Desirability of having houses and barns similar in style.
- (4) Meaning of informal and formal designs. Where each kind of design should be used.
- (5) Proper size of the farmstead.
- (6) The conditions that determine how much ground the farmstead should include.

IV. Location of buildings.

- (1) The essentials of good design in a farm home.
- (2) Locating the house with reference to the direction of the prevailing winds.
- (3) Drainage conditions of the site.
- (4) Locating the house with respect to landscape views.
- (5) Factors which determine the size of the lot suitable for the house.
- (6) Location of the barn.
- (7) Interior arrangement of the house with respect to outside surroundings and daily life of the family.
- (8) A number of small buildings on the farmstead objectionable.

V. Walks and drives.

- (1) Style and location of the entrance to the farmstead.
- (2) Kinds of posts and fences for marking the entrance to the farmstead.
- (3) Plantings at the entrance.
- (4) Approach to the buildings.
- (5) Approach for a farmstead located some distance back from the public highway.
- (6) Proper vista for the approach.
- (7) Arrangement of secondary drives.
- (8) Arrangement of walks.
- (9) Concealing walks and drives from view.
- (10) Why few walks and drives are preferable.
- (11) Kinds of surfacing suitable for walks and drives on the farmstead.

VI. Service features.

- (1) What the service features are.
- (2) Importance of providing a convenient delivery of fuel.
- (3) Location of the clothes drying yard.
- (4) Location and size of the fruit and vegetable gardens.
- (5) Arrangement of gardens to facilitate horse cultivation.
- (6) Use of an ornamental garden.
- (7) Location and form for an ornamental garden.

VII. Lawns.

- (1) Purpose of the lawn.
- (2) General form of the lawn.
- (3) Proper surface condition of the lawn.
- (4) How to make changes in grades. Ogee.
- (5) Methods of retaining steep surfaces.
- (6) Kind of covering to grow on a lawn.
- (7) Conditions which should determine the size of a lawn.

## VII. Lawns—Continued.

- (8) Mowing the lawn.
- (9) Objections to putting live stock on the lawn to graze.

## VIII. Arrangement of plantings.

- (1) How to use plants to correct faults in the appearance of a lawn.
- (2) How to arrange plantings for formal and informal design.
- (3) Where formal or informal design is appropriate.

## IX. Trees.

- (1) Benefits from trees on the farmstead.
- (2) What use should be made of evergreen trees?
- (3) Where flowering trees may be planted.
- (4) Proper location for shade trees about the house in the North and in the South.
- (5) Open space in front of the house.
- (6) Proper placing of shade trees about the barn in the North and in the South.
- (7) How trees influence the danger to farm buildings from lightning.
- (8) How objectionable views may be shut off by planting trees.
- (9) Importance of planting small young trees the proper distance apart.
- (10) Kind of trees to plant near the buildings.

## X. Shrubs.

- (1) Why shrubs are needed about the house and trees in the yard.
- (2) Where to plant shrubs.
- (3) What kind of shrubs to plant.
- (4) Keeping openings in the plantings for desirable views.
- (5) Fences and hedges around the lawn.
- (6) Use of shrubbery to outline the course of walks and drives.
- (7) Shrubs used to apparently hide one part of the grounds from another. Reason for this.

## XI. Vines.

- (1) Beautifying effect of vines.
- (2) Care needed in the selection of vines.
- (3) Dampness on walls caused by vines.
- (4) How to train vines on wooden buildings.
- (5) Use of vines on fences, arbors, and pergolas.

## XII. Herbaceous plants.

- (1) Where to set herbaceous perennial and annual plants on the lawn.
- (2) Use of spring flowering bulbs.
- (3) Use of tender bedding plants.
- (4) Where flower beds should be located on the lawn.

## XIII. Plant material.

- (1) Expression of plants.
- (2) Harmonizing the differences in plant expression.
- (3) Selection of hardy plants.
- (4) Winter effect of plants.
- (5) Selection of plants to secure bloom through as much of the season as is possible.
- (6) Number of species appropriate for one farmstead.
- (7) Flower colors suited to the color of buildings.
- (8) Study of the chart (fig. 62) showing appropriate color combinations of highly colored flowers.

## XIII. Plant material—Continued.

- (9) Kinds of plants to arrange in clumps.
- (10) Value of local wild plants for lawn planting.
- (11) How to prune wild plants for planting on the lawn.
- (12) Kinds of plants to buy from a nurseryman.
- (13) Two methods of setting shrubs for ornamental effect.
- (14) Care of trees and shrubs after planting.

*Practical exercises.*—1. Visit some of the best improved farmsteads in the community and study the plan of arrangement of buildings and plantings.

2. Draw to scale a plan of the school grounds. Show suggestive improvements.

3. Have pupils draw to scale the plan of their home farmstead. Compare plans.

4. Make a second drawing of the home farmstead suggesting possible improvements in the arrangements of walks, drives, plantings, and fences in accordance with the principles set forth in the bulletin. (If possible, present these drawings to a landscape authority for criticism. Ask the local State agricultural college for a reference to such an authority.)

5. From the landscape plan of the school grounds put into effect, at the proper season, some of the suggested improvements.

6. Have the pupils put into effect at home as many of the improvements suggested in their drawings as is possible. A record should be kept of the work. This work with the care of the home grounds during the growing season would make an excellent home project.

*Correlations.*—History: Study the changes in the style of architecture in farm buildings from the colonial period to the present time.

Language: Write letters for catalogues. Write a report of a visit made to a farmstead to study the landscape plan. Write a report upon improvement work done on the home grounds.

Arithmetic: Estimate the number of trees and shrubs needed to improve the home grounds. Refer to catalogues for prices and calculate the cost of the plants needed.

Geography: Variations in the farm buildings and arrangement of the farmstead grounds in the various parts of the United States. Reasons for these variations.



